
COUNTY OF KERN
MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

James A. Waterman, PhD, Director



*Working together toward
Hope, Recovery and Independence*

**PAROLEE SERVICES NETWORK
REGIONAL MEETING
Kern County Mental Health
3300 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield
July 8, 2009**

PRESENT:

Felicia Skaggs – KCMH Gate Team
Oscar Acosta – WestCare
Kurt Klemencic – ADP
Rodney Armstrong – Parole
Cindy Coe – KCMH SA Admin

Rashid Frye – WestCare
Audrey Presley – KCMH Gate Team
Carol Cole – KCMH SA Admin
Lily Alvarez – KCMH SA Admin

SUMMARY MINUTES:

1. **Introductions:** Accomplished.
2. **Approval of April 8, 2009 meeting minutes:** Motions to approve minutes by Skaggs / Presley to approve as submitted; approved all ayes.
3. **Follow-up items:**
 - A. Page 1, Item 3 A: *Under-utilization of slots in Lake Isabella and Ridgecrest.* Ms. Alvarez announced PSN services would be going out to Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2009, and slots for outlying areas would be determined beforehand. Input will be sought from CDCR before the final RFP is released. Mr. Armstrong responded he believed of the 40-some parolees in the area, more than half did not meet PSN criteria. Ms. Alvarez indicated the majority of services will be primarily dedicated to metro Bakersfield.
 - B. Page 2, Item 4 A: *Weekly head count of PSN clients.* Mr. Klemencic announced Kern County was the first to submit their report (thank you, Ms. Cole).
 - C. Page 2, Item 3 C: *Problems experienced with databases.* Ms. Cole indicated the data for April through October 2008 had been resubmitted with it flagged as PSN, so the CalOMS database now matches.
 - D. Mr. Klemencic reported the data disc with the EXE program apparently did not work after a while, and all other counties have discontinued its use. Other counties are sending a spreadsheet for their data; Kern is now also sending in this format. Mr. Klemencic asks that the data continue to be sent to him until he is able to speak to CDCR to see who should be receiving the information, to ensure they are going to the right location. It is hoped eventually a report can be created for counties.



Ms. Alvarez questioned whether the specialized phone lines needed to send the report using the old disc would still be needed at the CDCR Sillect Avenue site, if a different format was now being used; the lines cost \$180 each per month. Ms. Skaggs will contact Mental Health's technology services manager to discontinue the lines. The data will continue to be sent in an Excel spreadsheet format.

4. State ADP Issues:

- A. Copies of Enclosure 9 from the PSN Multi-Agency Plan were distributed, a weekly participant count by modality and gender. Mr. Klemencic indicated the enclosure is included in the FY 09-10 agreement. Ms. Alvarez reported providers will not be required to complete the information, as it will be submitted by Mental Health. The data will be retrieved how it is in the system, before it is cleaned, so it will be somewhat skewed because discharges will not always be entered weekly. Mr. Klemencic agreed this will be the case and is acceptable.
- B. Copies of Enclosure 10 from the PSN Multi-Agency Plan were distributed, a form for reporting incidents or occurrences. The form is now required, and was created to ensure consistency in reporting. Mr. Frye indicated WestCare has an internal system in place to report incidents to Mental Health; Mr. Acosta added they contact the agent of record if something happens with a parolee. An electronic copy was requested, and Ms. Coe will send to providers. Ms. Alvarez provided additional information on the County contract requirements for reporting unusual occurrences and mortality and morbidity; most deaths that are reported are for clients in the narcotic treatment programs.
- C. Mr. Klemencic reported the "Success Stories" feature is up and running on the PSN Web page, and encouraged members to read Georgeann's story. Stories are welcome and needed. Ms. Skaggs indicated they have a Prop 36 case that can be submitted; Mr. Frye will check for a WestCare case. Mr. Klemencic provided information on alumni groups that are sometimes highlighted in the success stories, and shared an experience he had with one group. Mr. Klemencic expressed a concern services provided to those who are not coerced into treatment will be reduced, and they will not be given a chance to become successful.
- D. Ms. Alvarez reported Kern County will not be eliminating Levels 1 and 2. Priorities in the current budget climate include maintaining regional treatment, maintaining the gate function, reducing treatment slots, and beginning wait lists and interim services.

5. State CDCR Issues: Not present. Mr. Klemencic relayed information.

- A. PSN funding is expected to remain in the State budget. Prop 36 is not expected to be funded, although the Offender Treatment Program will receive some funding. Prop 36 clients are, for the most part, interchangeable with PSN clients based on the types of offenses to qualify for PSN. At the statewide level, there will be about 5,000 parolees without treatment resources. Those clients may be able to be placed in PSN.

6. Kern County Parole Issues:

- A. Mr. Armstrong reported their budget is still up in the air. There is talk, if Prop 36 is not funded, to discharge all non-violent non-serious cases, which are most of the Prop 36 parolees. The rest would go on summary parole, which would not be supervised, and not tested; the law enforcement community would still be able to conduct searches. Mr. Klemencic questioned whether these clients could be eligible for PSN; Mr. Armstrong responded they are not ever seen or tested, and are just banked in a computer to allow law enforcement searches. Members discussed, should the governor release prisoners, where parolees will go for treatment and which may be released based on risk assessment.

7. Provider Issues:

- A. WestCare: Mr. Frye questioned whether a system could be set up to notify WestCare if a parolee is returned to custody, rather than assuming they are missing appointments. Mr. Armstrong indicated this should be happening. Mr. Frye agreed that sometimes they are notified, sometimes not, but not knowing plays a part in keeping their slots filled. Ms. Alvarez asked that gatekeepers keep making referrals to WestCare, regardless of available PSN slots based on occupancy reports.

Ms. Alvarez indicated that, once there is a budget, the Department would like to discuss buying more services from WestCare for metro Bakersfield.

- B. Mental Health Gate Team: No additional report.
- C. College Community Services: Not present.

8. Mental Health Issues:

- A. Ms. Alvarez reported the Substance Abuse budget is looking at a 29% overall cut. There is hope Byrne Grant funds may be used, along with continued PSN, only a 10% cut to Drug Medi-Cal, and some CalWORKs funding preserved. Changes will need to be made to become more effective and efficient, and take advantage of opportunities.
- B. Mr. Klemencic questioned whether Kern was having success with the Anasazi electronic medical record. Ms. Alvarez responded some other counties are using a different system, but Anasazi has built in CalOMS, and billing is linked to services rendered. Members discussed the electronic medical record mandate and other systems that are being used.

9. Next meeting **October 14, 2009, at Kern County Mental Health Administration.**

LA:cc

Attachments to original minutes:

PSN MAP Enclosure 9 – Weekly Participant Count
PSN MAP Enclosure 10 – Unusual Occurrence Report